

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

September 21, 2011

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Jen Mezei, Hark Sandhu, Zena Kwan, Lynne Vidler, Sophie Cong, Rema Sanghera, Cheryl Tong, Jen Mezei

Regrets: Sandra Mankoo, Rhylin Bailie

Others in Attendance: Wendell Hiltz (principal), about 14 parents attended

Meeting started 6:58 pm

- Special welcome to new parents and welcome to returning parents
- Attending PAC meetings is a good way to hear from principal, hear about school events, and give your feedback at meetings – 1 meeting per month.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz

School Events Update

- French book fair has started today and will continue tomorrow Sept. 22/11. Intake meetings for Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 cancelled and this has been hard on book fair; business has been very slow according to organizer Birdie Chan.
- Family Photo Day is October 3rd.
- Terry Fox Day – Toonies for Terry & a visit from Eric Walters week of Sept. 26th.

Computer/IT Upgrades

- Computer upgrades, including adding wireless capability and re-imaging of hardware, were scheduled to go ahead this past summer. But due to a backlog of similar projects in other buildings throughout the district, our upgrades have been re-scheduled for the end of October.
- PAC has earmarked money for technology-related purchases for the school. The plan is to proceed with the upgrade first, which will include an inventory of everything IT in building, and this will then give us a sense of where we should spend this PAC money. The goal is to spend the money as wisely as possible.

Immunizations & Enrolment

- Students in grade 6 will receive immunizations the week of October 17th.
- Enrolment – this year we have about 300 students in the English stream and 195 in French. Enrolment is down compared to last year but this was expected as last year we had 3 classes of grade 6 and 7 French and this year only 2 classes at the 6/7 level.

Teacher Job Action

- The best place to find answers to your questions re: teacher job action is online.
 - School District website <http://sd41.bc.ca/> there is a link called 'Teacher Job Action – Information Update'. The District posts the most current information.
 - In addition, you can visit the BC Public School Employer's Association (BCPSEA) website <http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/>
- Due to job action, teachers aren't helping with document distribution. This means some of the usual forms and announcements are coming home later this year because we're trying to send as much as possible in one shot and because Wendell is distributing these documents without the usual level of help.
- All parents can help by making sure forms and money sent in to the school are well-labelled with their child's name, teacher name, and division. Usually any money and forms sent in are collected and processed (child's name is checked off) by teachers, but due to job action this is not happening.
- Parent question – how many school classrooms are being used this year? All classrooms but one at the far end of the school (Jen West's old classroom) will be used. This extra classroom will not be used as a regular classroom this year. Ms. Jones may use it this extra classroom for ESL groups in primary. PAC can probably have some storage space in this classroom.
- Note there not will be classes in portables this year. One of the old portables is being replaced, it is not ready yet. Ms. Jones will use one portable for intermediate level ESL programs. The other portable will be used by the advancement teacher.
- Parent question – will job action affect the Quebec trip and Grade 7 camp?
Answer – if the job action continues we are not sure these events will go forward.
- Report cards will not be issued in November - the Labour Relations Board (LRB) has ruled teachers don't have to physically issue report cards. **However, teachers must continue to assess each student and let you know how your kids are doing. They will continue to gather all the usual information and upon request can let you know how your child is doing.** Parent's can be specific in their questions and ask how your child is doing in each subject.
- Parent question: what about parents that are working full time that can't approach teacher right before or after school? According to the BCTF website

- parents can contact teachers it just can't be a formal meeting and it can't be meeting outside of school hours. Teachers have to make an effort to inform you about your child and if you called during day, they should return your call. You could also ask your teacher if you can contact them by email.
- Parent question: how long will teacher job action last? We don't know, they are currently in bargaining.
 - Parent question: if your child is not doing well, if there are concerns, will the teacher contact the parent? If we as parents suspect something is up, take job action out of the picture and call the teacher and check in. Wendell would hope teachers would not wait until the end of the year to let you know there is a serious problem. We may see further rulings from the LRB regarding this type of thing if the job action continues; there may be allowances for making a special kind of contact with parents. Whether the onus of initiating contact is solely on the parent and not on the teacher has not been made perfectly clear by the LRB yet.
 - Comment (from a parent): high school students were recently told that around report card time parents can request marks verbally and that they can contact the teacher at anytime and request this.
 - Parent question: how will Job Action affect field trips? Field trips are voluntary and teachers have always had the right to do field trips. However, the LRB has said teachers do not have to deal with paperwork and money and for most field trips a permission slip and money is involved. If a field trip was to go ahead students may have to fill out a special form and there may be multiple levels of approval (principal and school board), the forms have to somehow be distributed to children and then picked up along with the money. One possibility is a teacher could ask a parent in the class to help; however, different teachers may interpret this part of Job Action differently.
 - Parent question: how will Job Action affect extra-curricular activities like cross country? These types of activities are again voluntary; at Seaforth teachers have gone ahead and started cross-country. For events which run outside of normal school hours – teachers can choose to help with that type of thing.
 - Parent question: how will Job Action affect events like Carnival and Spirit Day – are these events at risk because of Job Action? No probably not because PAC is running these events; teachers might run a Spirit Day session if they wanted to. Again this could come down to interpretation by teachers of LRB rulings. Spirit Day occurs during school time, it is not extracurricular, and during school hours teachers are still responsible for supervising students. Spirit Day is just changing what's happening during day – this is one possible interpretation. LRB may hear and make rulings on specific questions as these special events draw nearer.
 - Comment from Jen Mezei (DPAC) – DPAC feedback on Job Action is the same as Wendell's – they recommend you look at the websites. The District may be putting a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section on the website.
 - Despite these issues, throughout the coming months of Job Action we will be working hard at maintaining positive relationships with staff.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT/PAC BUSINESS – Vice-chair MaryAnn Giardini (for Rhylin Bailie)

- Rhylin had to travel out of town for work and sends her regrets that she could not attend this meeting

Introduction of 2011-2012 PAC Executive

- Chairperson – Rhylin Bailie chair@seaforthpac.net or info@seaforthpac.net
- Vice-chairperson & District PAC rep - MaryAnn Giardini
- Treasurer(s) – Sophie Cong and Rema Sanghera
- Secretary – Shannon Derksen
- Canadian Parents for French (CPF) rep – Cheryl Tong
- Members at Large - Zena Kwan, Lynne Vidler, Sandra Mankoo, Hark Sandhu
- Past Chairperson – Jen Mezei

Approval of May and June 2011 Minutes

- Motion to approve June's General Meeting Minutes: Cheryl firsts, Zena seconds, motion carried.
- May's minutes need a final round of edits to ensure clarity, these will then be posted on the PAC website <http://www.seaforthpac.net/index.htm> and then will be approved at October's general meeting.

Teacher Job Action – call for **Class Co-ordinators**

- Due to teacher job action and to ensure all the notices get where they need to go we need **class co-ordinators** to help distribute notices and collect forms and money. The time commitment would be relatively small each day – once in the morning or after school to pick up or hand out forms. We need 1 class co-ordinator for every one or two divisions. Pick-up should occur every day as there may be money sitting in the classrooms that needs to be picked up. A schedule of notices with due dates could be created for the class co-ordinators. Jen is drafting a notice requesting volunteers that will be posted outside of each classroom. Please contact Rhylin Bailie chair@seaforthpac.net if you are interested.

Overview of 2011-2012 PAC Events & Call for Volunteers *(for the full list of Seaforth PAC Events please see the notice that was sent home with your child)*

- **Traffic Safety Committee**

- Many kids need to make it to school in a small window of time; it is very busy on the road!!! The traffic safety committee helps keep your kids safe during this time.
- We need volunteers to help co-ordinate and supervise student traffic safety volunteers.
- **Past traffic safety co-ordinator Donna Binotto needs a replacement to come forward.**
- Donna gave a quick run-down of the position: it involves having student and parent volunteers fill out a form regarding their availability; she has already had some inquiries!
- You will need to create a volunteer schedule which will take into account the normal school day and special events.
- A fun part of the job is organizing a party and prizes for the traffic volunteers.
- As well, part of the job is getting the word out there about how important traffic safety is and getting parents, grandparents and childcare providers on board with the rules.
- Every year there are lots of new parents and caregivers that need to be made aware how traffic flow works; at times you will need to interact with these folks and ask them nicely to keep moving!

- **Family Photo Night** – 4 nights are planned; Siva Ramesh has volunteered to help MaryAnn. The cost is 20 dollars that all goes to school – this gets you one 8x10 photo and of course you can order additional photos and packages. The photographer Barry is great; this is our 5th year with him. Please fill out forms and submit by September 30th so that MaryAnn can put together a schedule. **We also need volunteer helpers for the 4 evenings, 2 per night.** Each night is a 2.5 hour shift – very easy work, you sit outside library, check off people, fill out form and file, and kids often help too.

- **Seaforth Carnival** – kids love it, it is a really fun day, it does take a lot of parent volunteers – takes about 100 volunteers – please consider coming forward. **We do need a chair for the Carnival Committee.** This event will occur on a Friday – a date is needed – Wendell to provide PAC Executive with a few potential dates.

- **Hot Lunch Program** – everyone should have received their forms – due tomorrow Sept. 23rd. Please fill out and return. Rishma Vallani and Cathy Nielsen co-ordinate this program which runs every other Tuesday. Rishma notes that there are no new suppliers this year. The sushi and McDonalds lunches are not on the forms because these lunches are going to be run by special interest groups (i.e. French Immersion); the forms for these lunches should go out soon. Hot Lunch was affected by Job Action (photocopying of forms). Question: is the accounting for the French Immersion hot lunches being done separately? Not sure – Wendell will help figure out. New parents please

note – hot lunch program is a major fund raiser for PAC events -please try and order if you can. Wendell to follow-up to ensure all divisions, including kindergarten, received hot lunch forms. Question: last year there was an alternative hot lunch program discussed - Munchalunch - is this going forward? This alternative program is not ready yet, it is in the hands of the committee that proposed it, and they should provide their proposal to Wendell and go from there. The proposal is supported by PAC executive.

- Spirit Day – Committee Chair is Pablo Su. This is a very popular 1 day workshop for students that offer 1 hour seminars on a wide range of topics from jewellery making to bollywood dancing to interacting with community leaders (BC Global News, BC Paramedics and so on). Will need lecturers and other volunteers to help with classroom set-up, etc. Please contact Pablo to help with this event (spablo@telus.net).
- Sports Day – **need a co-ordinator** for this event; our past co-ordinator for this event is no longer at the school. The main job is to run the concession; this is a relatively one-day event, you will need a handful of volunteers to help run this one.
- Terrific Tuesdays – Cheryl Tong has volunteered to co-ordinate this event, she is hoping to get help. The time commitment is not huge - noon hour. It is a fun easy thing to do.
- Emergency Preparedness Committee – **need co-ordinator**. This one involves organizing and refreshing emergency supplies, and helping to co-ordinate drills. There are funds set aside in the 2011-2012 budget, it is just a matter of purchasing the supplies.
- Playground Committee – **need co-ordinator**. Our playground won't last forever! We need interested parents to research and plan for the upgrade of our existing playground.
- NEW! Technical Committee – **need a co-ordinator with Tech experience**. New parents should think about joining as your kids will be at Seaforth for a while and will benefit the most from new technology purchases. Fill out a volunteer form or email Rhylin chair@seaforthpac.net
- NEW! Safe School Committee – co-ordinators are MaryAnn Giardini and Sandra Riccardi.
 - This committee is all about teaching kids how to be good citizens. It is about kindness and anti-bullying.
 - Jim Jordan a Canadian motivational speaker is scheduled to speak on October 17th. He is an educator and an entertainer –he has an anti-bullying message delivered through magic and entertainment.
 - There will be 2 sessions: one for kindergarten to grade 3 and one for grade 4 to 7. Various Burnaby high schools hosted Jim Jordan last year.
 - This committee is also looking at forming a peer conflict resolution program that would teach grade 6/7 how to help peers resolve their conflicts at lunch time on the playground. Wendell will work with MaryAnn on this.
 - There may also be an event in conjunction with Pink Shirt Day.

- Health and Nutrition Committee – co-ordinator Adrienne Dall'Antonia. This committee, among other things, reviews hot lunches and concession items to ensure they meet nutritional guidelines.

TREASURER'S REPORT/OVERVIEW OF PAC BUDGET FOR 2011-2012 – Sophie Cong & Rema Sanghera

- Copies of the statement of receipts and expenditures for 2010-2011 school year for both the general operations and gaming fund accounts was made available during this meeting.
- As of August 31, 2011 we have \$27,275.39 in the general operation account and \$4,026.63 in the gaming fund.
- At the May PAC meeting, there was a discussion regarding giving the school \$6,000 of the surplus towards an 'IT wish list'. It is possible that this amount will increase depending on what is needed and what is actually purchased.
- We will receive a gaming grant for about \$10,000. Last year hot lunch made approximately \$10,000 profit (note that the statement indicated a profit of \$15,000 but this is not up-to-date).
- The statement of receipts and expenditures for past years also includes the approved budget for 2011 – 2012 and a list of fund-raising activities and expected profits.
- **Sound Systems:** last year the PAC received a request for and approved the purchase of one front row sound system using PAC funds. The school has asked for two sound systems – motion to approve the purchase of 2 (not 1) sound system: Rishma firsts, Siva seconds; the majority are in favour by a show of hands, none are opposed, motion carried.
- **Excess funds** – there will need to be a discussion of how best to use these funds. Another parent survey will be going out to get your feedback.

NEW BUSINESS – all

- None at this time.

Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm